



MEETING MINUTES / 19 MARCH 2019

ATTENDANCE:

Present: Showell, Stewart, Armbruster, Baldwin, Bradley, Farley, Johnson (call-in) Lardizzone, Lopez, Magner, McMullen (call-in), Sarg, Seppala **93.3%**

Excused: Newman, Newstadt

Unexcused:

Guests: Brendan Mackie (Wilmington VAMC) (call-in), Bill Peterson (Delaware Veterans Home), Jessica Finan (Home of the Brave), Liz Byers-Jiron, Dave Skocik (Delaware Veterans Coalition), John Pastor (DeVets Post 1), Mark Taylor (VA Outreach), Valerie Camarillo (VA Outreach), John Richter (Sussex Vet Center)

CHAIRWOMAN'S OPENING REMARKS:

Requested moment of silence for commissioners dealing with health issues

Thanked commissioners for supporting various events

MEETING MINUTES:

Approved, motions: Lardizzone and Sarg

ADMINISTRATIVE REMARKS:

Wilmington VAMC – Brendan Mackie, Public Affairs Officer (telephone)

Thanked those commissioners who attended previous Veterans Service Officers' meeting

Kent County CBOC's technical review was completed but no other details are available

27 Mar: Job Fair at education building, targeting LPNs and CNAs

- Positions available at main center and CBOCs

Delaware Veterans Home (DVH) – Bill Peterson, Director:

Residents – 67

Nine admissions, accompanied by five deaths

Admission's Coordinator is leaving

- Advanced Practice Nurse who decided to return to the private sector

- Replacement is in-house and needs to learn the position

Dining room project, roof and walls were added

- Projected completion is August

Blue wing bathing suite project was just begun

- Projected completion is July

- Awaiting special order tub

Milford amendment which restricted campus buildings to "medical only" is being reevaluated by the town

- Want to amend to allow a storage company to move on campus

- Concerned about the visual

- Concerned about type of items (dangerous) that could be stored

- Had conversations with local leaders and legislators for stoppage

Should be receiving bell dedication invitations for April

Friends of Veterans Home is moving forward with dental suite

- Meeting with architect scheduled for April

Two rounds of interviews for Peterson's replacement

Home of the Brave, Director Jessica Finan:

One male bed available

Three female beds available

Mobile outreach project with RV van

- Will use to take supplies out to veterans in need

- Still in the works

(Sarg) Are any children at the facility?

No

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Nolan Lewis, National Association of Black Veterans

25 March / 1300, National Medal of Honor Day Ceremony at Brandywine State Park

24 May / 1300, honoring World War II veterans at Brandywine State Park

3 – 6 October departmental work shop and convention

Liz Byers-Jiron, Operation Stand Down

30 Mar: Military Women's Tea, Elks Lodge, 100 projected attendees

20 Sep: Veterans Stand Down, Schutte Park

- Kick off meeting was in January

- Next meeting 28 March

- Signing MOU to assist homeless veterans, with Wilmington VAMC, Ryan Paulson

Victory Village

- Helped two veterans avoid jail

(Baldwin) Have you considered consolidating Stand Down with Vet Fest?

No, two different veterans' populations

Dave Skocik

Mentioned Dover (30 March) and Georgetown (29 March) Vietnam Veterans Remembrances

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Bear Veterans Memorial Cemetery, Commissioner Armbruster:

Interments – 63 (-21)

Administrator Cooke is still on medical leave

Millsboro Veterans Memorial Cemetery, Commissioner Bradley:

Interments – 31 (+3)

Health and Human Services, Commissioner Sarg:

Attended Military Compact Child Commission Meeting

- Annual meeting

- Updates on military families and children

- Key result military children were identified in Delaware public school systems

- Not practiced in charter, home, or parochial schools

Legislative Affairs, Commissioner McMullen:

10 Apr: Scheduled to present legislative concerns and recommendation to Joint Veterans Affairs Committee

Various representatives were contacted and expressed interest in sponsorship

(Sarg) Mentioned HB 90 has replaced HB 18

- Difference is the trust fund will be financed via the general fund versus gaming funds

- Still expands assistance to general discharge (under honorable conditions)

We need better communication with legislative staffers so we can be aware of legislation

(Baldwin) Representative Ramone is still working property relief for 100% disabled veterans

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS:

DVTF Previous Month: Applications 6; Granted 2 (33%); Awarded 2,702.78; Balance - \$61,417.00

NASDVA Abraham Lincoln Pillar of Excellence Award

ORGANIZATIONAL REPORTS:

Commissioner McMullen (Air Force Sergeants Association - AFSA)

The chapter is experiencing leadership difficulties due to military assignments and retirements

- Collecting donations for Delaware Veterans Home and will provide volunteers for home's activities

- Began planning for 5K Walk/Run in April (start and finish at AMC Museum)

Division 1, Professional Airman's Conference is 21 - 23 March 2019 in Burlington, MA

- Guest include CMSAF11 Murry, AFSA International President Carlton, Executive Director Reed,

Lobbyist Lokovic and Cory Etchenberger, author and son of Medal of Honor Recipient CMSgt

Etchenberger.

12 Mar: Attended DCVA Executive Committee meeting

Arranged date for Joint Veterans Affairs Committee presentation

Commissioner Armbruster (American Legion - AL)

3 - 5 Mar: National Commander Brett Reistad visited Delaware

- Culminated with organization's 100 year anniversary dinner

- Visited Wilmington VA Medical Center and received positive vibe

- Visited Dover AFB and various posts throughout the state

Boys State soliciting is beginning, about 30 are signed up

American Legion baseball is beginning

5 - 7 Apr: American Legion National Oratorical contest, Indianapolis, IN

- Dorothy McCormick, Millsboro home school, is representing Delaware

Commissioner Bradley (American Veterans - AmVets)

12 Mar: Attended Wilmington VAMC VSO meeting

Post 2 donated \$219K in contributions as required (law) for having lottery machines

29 Mar / 1500 - 1615: Vietnam Veterans Memorial program at Georgetown Circle

Post 2 Ladies Auxiliary is having a clover drive for national commander's project

- Clovers are \$1.00 and one was attached to a flyer

13 Apr: Post 2 Ladies Auxiliary is hosting an Easter Egg Hunt

- Inviting children, 2 - 9, to participate

- Easter bunny, magician, games, and snacks

Commissioner Lardizzone (Disabled American Veterans - DAV)

23 – 27 Feb: Attended DAV, Commanders and Adjutants, Conference, Washington DC

3 Mar: Attended DNG Change of Command

10 – 11 Mar: Attended DAV District 4 (DE, CT, NJ) Conference, Atlantic City NJ

12 Mar: Attended Wilmington VAMC VSO meeting

15 – 18 Mar: Attended DAV New York State Executive Committee meeting

5 – 6 Apr: Harvest Ridge Food Truck Fundraiser

Commissioner Johnson (Korean War Veterans Association - KWVA)

Nothing to report

Commissioner Farley (Marine Corps League - MCL)

8 Mar: Attended and worked table at Brain Injury Association in Delaware conference

14 Mar: Attended Central Delaware Chamber of Commerce Legislative luncheon

11 May: Departmental Convention

Commissioner Sarg (Military Officers Association of America - MOAA)

13 Feb: JROTC scholarship fundraiser at Outback Restaurant (Dover)

4 Mar: Attended Brain Injury Trust Fund meeting

4 Mar: Attended Brain Injury Council meeting

14 Mar: Attended First State Military Child Interstate Compact Commission meeting

14 Mar: Attended Central Delaware Chamber of Commerce “Meet Your Legislators Lunch”

Commissioner Magner (Military Order of the Purple Heart - MOPH)

9 Mar: Departmental meeting

25 May / 1100: Departmental Convention at Mission BBQ, Dover

8 – 12 Jul: National Convention, Branson MO

Pending lawsuit between national service foundation (maintains finances) and the national organization (veterans service officers and administrative functions)

- Two facets will separate due to poor investment actions

Commissioner Newman (Veterans of Foreign Wars - VFW)

Nothing to report

Commissioner Baldwin (Vietnam Veterans of America – VVA)

Update on trust fund endowment for Friends of Delaware Veterans

- Has \$20K and another \$10K committed

- Working toward donation process

Invited to Delaware Decision Makers’ meetings to sell books toward donations

Military Academy proposed for Sussex County

- Spoke to county council president

23 Mar: Guest speaker, MOWW Leadership Academy

30 Mar / 1400: Vietnam Veterans Day, Kent County Memorial Park, MG Berry – Speaker

Seeking ways to attract veterans to Delaware via other military installations

Commissioner Showell (At Large, affiliated with Delaware National Guard)

Nothing to report

Commissioner Newstadt (At Large, affiliated with Jewish War Veterans)

Nothing to report

Commissioner Seppala (At Large, affiliated with Military Order of World Wars)

3 Mar: Attended DNG Change of Command, new Adjutant General, MG Michael Berry

23 Mar: MOWW, Wilmington Chapter with the Delaware Military Heritage and Education Foundation will sponsor a Youth Leadership Conference

- Held at Delaware Military Museum
- Presentations on leadership, patriotism, and free enterprise
- Three JROTC cadets, each, from seven high schools
- Delaware Civil Air Patrol members will also be in attendance

Commissioner Lopez (At Large, affiliated with Delaware Veterans)

20 and 27 Feb: Attended Military Women's Tea committee meetings

2 Mar: Attended National Capital Chapter Safari Club International Banquet, Washington DC

- Veterans were sponsored to attend
- Obtained information on organizations who sponsor service member's hunting, fishing, and additional trips

8 Mar: Attended Brain Injury Association of Delaware Conference

9 Mar: Conducted DelVets Post 2 Installation Dinner

- Installed new executive officers and appointees

16 Mar: Attended Convoy of Hope meeting

18 Mar: Attended Military Women's Tea committee meeting

Commissioner Stewart (At Large, affiliated with student veterans associations)

24 Apr / 1200 – 1600: Law Enforcement Appreciation Luncheon, Camden-Wyoming Fire Hall

TERM COMPLETION:

EVENTS:

25 March / 1300: Medal of Honor Reflection Ceremony, Brandywine State Park, Wilmington

28 March / 1030: Veterans Education Task Force Meeting, DNG Biden Center, New Castle

29 March / 1500: Vietnam Veterans Day Event, The Circle, Georgetown

30 March / 1400: Military Women's Tea, Elks Lodge, Dover

30 March / 1400: Vietnam Veterans Day Event, Kent County Veterans Memorial Park, Dover

18 April / 0830: DJF Meeting, Adams Service Center, Georgetown

23 April / 1730: Friends of Delaware Veterans Meeting, DCVA Conference Room

9 May / 1030: Modern Maturity Center Table Display, Modern Maturity Center, Dover

16 May / 0830: DJF Meeting, DNG Biden Center, New Castle

24 May / 1300: World War II Veterans Recognition, Brandywine State Park, Wilmington

25 May / 1030: Memorial Day Recognition, Bear Veterans Cemetery, Bear

30 May / 1030: Memorial Day Recognition, War Memorial Park, New Castle

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

VFW HB 18 Proposal – Assistance with End of Life Expenses (CLOSED)

- Item was removed from consideration (via House Veterans Committee)

NEW BUSINESS:

ITEMS FOR THE GOOD AND WELFARE OF THE ORGANIZATION:

16 – 20 May: Vietnam Moving Wall that Heals at Cape May Ferry Terminal

(Mark Taylor) VA will continue with town halls and claims clinics

CLOSED SESSION:

NEXT MEETING:

LOCATION:

Tuesday, 21 May 2019 at 10:00 AM

Delaware Commission of Veterans Affairs